

FOR SAFE BOATING

BEFORE YOU WEIGH ANCHOR . . .

- Small boat operators should have a working knowledge of the basic maritime rules and regulations. These are covered in Coast Guard publication CG-184, "Rules of the Road, Western Rivers," available from Commander, Second Coast Guard District, St. Louis, Mo., or the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. Federal requirements for motorboats are contained in CG-290.
- The law requires Coast Guard approved life jackets for all passengers. Be water wise and wear yours while afloat.
- Maintain all required equipment in ship-shape condition. Check State and Federal laws.
- Equip your boat with a first aid kit, oars or paddles, and an anchor with a minimum of 100' of line for use in emergencies.
- Do not overpower or overload your boat. Remember, the number of seats does not indicate capacity.
- Always inform another person of your boating intentions – where you are going and when you intend to return. Stay ashore in threatening weather, or visibility is poor.
- Obey all fire safety rules when filling with gasoline. Gasoline vapors are explosive, and being heavier than air will settle in the lower parts of a boat.
- Always carry a portable radio for receiving weather forecasts or storm warnings.

WHILE NAVIGATING . . .

- Avoid navigating close to pile or rock structures. It is particularly hazardous to navigate immediately upstream or off end of dikes. Some dike ends are submerged and not visible.
- Yield the right-of-way to all large commercial tows. It is impossible for tows to maneuver to any degree or to stop, due to the swift current and narrow channel wherein they are limited to operate.
- Avoid navigating in the vicinity of construction work or dredging operations.
- Avoid bridge piers since the river is very swift and turbulent around them.
- Beware of sand bars, drift and snags when operating out of the buoyed channel.
- Observe all port regulations. Navigate in the vicinity of port areas with caution.
- Always stay alert for other boats, fisherman, and partly submerged logs. Be courteous – watch your wake. Travel in the buoyed channel.
- Don't anchor in a buoyed channel.
- If your boat capsizes or swamps, hang on to it. Do not try to swim to shore. "Swim" the capsized boat toward safety.
- Land your craft headed upstream when operating in the current of the river. Downstream landings are dangerous in swift current.